

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15 and 17-22 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim 2 has been amended for clarity reason only.

The only issue is whether the claims are anticipated by Musil et al. Applicants respectively disagree.

Applicants submit that Musil uses a fractogel (page 14-15) on which the ligands are provided on tentacles outside the beads as well as inside the beads. In the matrix of the present claims the ligands are provided on the pore surfaces externally and internally. Thus much more ligands are present in the matrix as internal ligands and Applicants' matrix has a higher legend density. A second difference lies in the pore size. Applicants' matrix allows only RNA (but not plasmid DNA) to enter the pores while Musil pore size distribution also allows some DNA into the pores. Applicants' matrix enables the claimed invention to give well separated RNA and plasmid DNA fractions (and purity according to electrophoretic analysis). The plasmid DNA elutes first, and then after a while, the RNA elutes as a single peak. This separated elution profile is enabled by the possibility to load the beads with more ligands inside than Musil and by the gel filtration effect, i.e. the smaller RNA elutes so much later than the bigger plasmid DNA that they are not

contaminated by each other. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims are not anticipated by Musil et al.

Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for claims 1-6 and 8-10.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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